

Solomon Foot, and Henry Wilson. It included writers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau, the great contemporary of Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville.

After the Civil War came a collection of extraordinary Americans that included John D. Rockefeller, the great grandfather of my colleague from West Virginia, Commodore Vanderbilt, Leland Stanford, J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, James Drew, James Hill, and Collis P. Huntington, who founded the city of Huntington, WV. These are just to name a few.

Referred to by such titles as "captains of industry" and "empire builders," this was the generation that industrialized America as the United States soared from fifth in the world in economic productivity to become the world's foremost economic power. With little exaggeration, industrialist Jay Gould stated:

We have made the country rich. We have developed the country.

Mr. President, they certainly made modern industrial America that gave the United States the industrial base that enabled us to win World War I and then World War II. They, too, certainly qualify for having made up a great generation.

Between 1900 and 1920, a period of American history sometimes referred to as the "progressive era," a generation of reformers sought to clean up the mess created by the industrialization and urbanization of the late 19th century, including child labor, sweat shops, corrupt political machines, industrial and banking monopolies, and urban slums. These tenacious progressive reformers broke the control that railroad, lumber, and coal companies possessed over their State legislatures.

These men enacted many of the laws that still regulate and guide us today, including those that established the Federal Reserve System and Federal Trade Commission, as well as antitrust laws and the national income tax. They adopted four constitutional amendments, including the direct election of U.S. Senators, without which amendment I certainly would not be here and perhaps the Senator from Rhode Island, who presently presides over the Senate with such a degree of dignity and skill, aplomb that is so rare as a day in June, JACK REED.

That generation included some of our greatest political leaders, such as President Woodrow Wilson, during whose second administration I was born, and President Theodore Roosevelt and Senators Robert LaFollette, Henry Cabot Lodge, and William E. Borah.

It included some of the greatest journalists in American history, such as Ida Tarbell, David Graham Phillips, and Lincoln Steffens. It included some of the greatest labor leaders in American history, such as Samuel Gompers, and Mother Jones.

Mr. President, rather than pitting one generation of Americans against

another in some sort of intergenerational competition, I like to recognize the greatness of a society, the greatness of a government, the greatness of a culture that is so instrumental in producing one great generation after another great generation and then another great generation.

It is not the singular greatness of any particular generation of Americans that we should recognize and celebrate but the greatness of a way of life that is ours, a way of life that not merely allows but encourages the American people to do our best, and allows and encourages the best to rise to the top, allows the cream of the crop to rise and become its own and fulfill its own talents, to excel, to succeed, and to make us a better Nation.

It is also important and fascinating to recall from where this greatness has come. Some, such as George Washington, the Roosevelts, and the Kennedys, did come from families of wealth, power, and education.

But the leader of the country during its darkest hours was a humble rail splitter who was born in a log cabin in western Kentucky. The leader of American military forces during the invasion of Normandy was a Kansas farm boy.

Look at the great industrialists of the late nineteenth century. John D. Rockefeller was the son of an itinerant patent medicine salesman. Andrew Carnegie was the son of a poor Scottish weaver. Jay Gould, Philip Armour, and Daniel Drew were children of poor farmers. James J. Hill began his career as an office clerk.

I daresay that the vast majority of Americans who have contributed to the greatness of this country, such as those who made up George Washington's motley revolutionary army, were plain, ordinary Americans, from ordinary places, doing ordinary things, until their country needed them. This included the men who fought at San Juan hill. This included the men who fought at Gettysburg. It included the men who stormed the beaches of Normandy, and, who, more recently, won Desert Storm.

Now we are seeing another generation of extraordinary Americans meeting the challenges and demands of our extraordinary times.

I am speaking foremost about the men who exemplified that New York spirit. Most of these were firefighters, policemen, and rescue workers at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon who rushed in to save other lives, including many who gave their own lives in the process. Then we think of those who have labored so long and so hard, day after day, week after week, digging through the rubble of the worst disasters in American history, seeking to save one more life.

I am also speaking of those countless Americans who have given blood, money, and other forms of assistance to the victims of those disasters.

I am speaking of the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform, and

may soon be put in harm's way to protect our country and defend the liberties and principles that we hold so dear.

I am speaking of the courageous men and women aboard United flight 93, who brought that plane down in the desolate fields of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and saved the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of their fellow Americans.

It does not get any greater than that. There can be no greater generation than these. All of these Americans qualify for greatness. They have made their generation yet another great generation of Americans.

It was people such as these who won our independence. It was because of people such as these that this country has survived a Civil War, a Great Depression, two world wars, and will now prevail in our current crisis. It is because of people such as these that our country has been, is, and will remain a great country.

I think of some verses from J.G. Holland.

God give us men!

A time like this demands strong minds,
great hearts, true faith, and ready hands.

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie.
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And brave his treacherous flatteries without winking.

Tall men, sun-crowned;
Who live above the fog.
In public duty and in private thinking.
For while the rabble with its thumbworn creeds,

It's large professions and its little deeds,
mingles in selfish strife,

Lo! Freedom weeps!
Wrong rules the land and waiting justice sleeps.

God give us men!

Men who serve not for selfish booty;
But real men, courageous, who flinch not at duty.

Men of dependable character;
Men of sterling worth;
Then wrongs will be redressed, and right will rule the earth.

God Give us Men!

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I cannot help but comment about the eloquent words we have just heard from the Senator from West Virginia. When I go home, people are quite concerned about our country, the state of our homeland security, the state of our security abroad, the situation with our economy. The eloquent words of the Senator from West Virginia speak to that and underscore the fact that when we have ever been challenged, we have had the people who will rise to the occasion and solve those problems that have been confronting our country.

One of the things I have been really impressed with is how thankful the people are that those of us who are Republicans and Democrats have been